

During 2003, 39,353 live births occurred to Kansas residents, representing a birth rate of 14.4 per 1,000 population. This was a 0.7 decrease from the 2002 rate of 14.5. ([Table 5](#))

In 2003, Geary, Seward and Finney counties had the highest county birth rates of 23.1, 23.0, and 19.2 births per 1,000 population respectively. Dodge City, Liberal, and Junction City had the highest 2003 city birth rates of 25.2, 25.0, and 24.8 births per 1,000 population respectively. ([Table 5](#) and [Table 6](#), [Figure 11](#))

Seward, Geary and Finney counties had the highest five-year county birth rates of 23.7, 22.3, and 21.2 births per 1,000 population respectively. ([Table 5](#))

Since 1960, birth rates for Kansas have followed national trends and steadily declined. Kansas birth rates have decreased 27.6 percent during the last 40 years from a rate of 19.9 births per 1,000 population in 1964 to a rate of 14.4 in 2003. In 2003, the Kansas birth rate (14.4) was 2.9 percent higher than the national rate of 14.0. ([Table 7](#), [Figure 10](#))

Kansas fertility rates have followed national trends and indicate a steady decline from 104.0 to 69.2 births per 1,000 female population aged 15-44 in 1964 and 2003 respectively. The increase in the fertility rate from 1989 to 1990 and from 1999 to 2000 can be explained, in part, by the use of actual census counts for the 1990 and 2000 female population. The Kansas fertility rate in 2003 (69.2) was 5.2 percent higher than the national rate of 65.8. ([Table 7](#), [Figure 12](#))

Age-specific fertility rates for Kansas during the years 1994-2003 decreased 11.8 percent for the 15-24 age-group. Concurrently, age-specific fertility rates increased 15.7 percent for the 25-34 age-group and 14.1 percent for the 35-44 age-group. ([Table 8](#), [Figure 13](#))

In 2003, 38.4 percent of all Kansas live births occurred to women in the 15-24 age-group, 50.2 percent of live births occurred to women in the 25-34 age-group and 11.1 percent occurred to women in the 35-44 age-group. For comparison, in 2003, 23.9 percent of all Kansas live births had fathers in the 15-24 age-group, 54.4 percent had fathers in the 25-34 age-group, and 19.6 percent had fathers in the 35-44 age group. ([Table 9](#) and [Table 10](#))

Of the births to mothers 10-19 years of age, where the age of the father is known, about one-third (33.3 percent) of fathers were 10-19 while nearly two-thirds (65.7 percent) of fathers were 20 and over. ([Table 9](#))

Over nine percent (9.4) of live births in 2003 were preterm (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) while 91 percent (90.6) occurred at 37 or more weeks of gestation. ([Table 11](#))

In 2003, 87.8 percent of all Kansas resident births were to mothers who received prenatal care that began in the first trimester (first 3 months) of pregnancy, 9.9 percent began in the second trimester, and 1.8 percent began in the third trimester. Less than 1 percent (0.5) received no prenatal care. ([Table 12](#))

Pregnancy Outcomes (Cont.)

Of the 39,353 Kansas resident live births in 2003, 81.1 percent received adequate or better prenatal care, including 25.6 percent with adequate-plus care; 18.9 percent received less than adequate prenatal care, including 8.0 percent with inadequate care. ([Table 13](#))

Mitchell county had the highest percentage of mothers with adequate or better prenatal care (93.0 percent) followed by Decatur (92.9 percent) and Bourbon counties (92.7 percent). Cheyenne county had the lowest percentage of adequate or better prenatal care (50.0 percent), followed by Finney (55.7 percent) and Morton counties (56.2 percent). ([Table 13](#))

In 2003, 81.0 percent of Kansas live births both occurred to women 15-34 years of age and weighed between 2,500-4,499 grams. ([Table 15](#))

Birth weights for Kansas live births in 2003 were distributed as follows: 7.4 percent of live births weighed under 2,500 grams (low birth weight), 91.3 percent weighed 2,500-4,499 grams (normal birth weight), and 1.3 percent weighed over 4,499 grams (heavy birth weight). ([Table 14](#) and [Table 15](#))

In 2003, 38.4 percent of Kansas live births were first births. Of the 15,102 first births, 55.0 percent occurred to women in the 15-24 age-group. ([Table 16](#), [Figure 14](#))

In 2003, 88.6 percent of Kansas live births were to white mothers, 7.0 percent were to black mothers, and 4.4 percent were to mothers of other races. Furthermore, 51.0 percent of Kansas live births were male and 49.0 percent were female. ([Table 17](#))

In 2003, there were 12,345 out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents. Of those births, 69.1 percent occurred to women in the 15-24 age-group. For comparison, in 1994, 72.9 percent of the 9,653 out-of-wedlock births occurred to women in this age group. ([Table 18](#))

The out-of-wedlock birth ratio has continued an upward trend over the years in both Kansas and the U.S. Out-of-wedlock births comprised 31.4 percent of all live births that occurred to Kansas residents in 2003, a 21.2 percent increase from 25.9 percent of live births in 1994. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 15](#))

The pregnancy rate for females ages 10-19 decreased 24.1 percent from 34.8 pregnancies per 1,000 in 1994 to 26.4 in 2003. Teen pregnancy rates for females ages 10-17 decreased 34.0 percent during this same time frame. ([Table 19](#), [Figure 18](#))

In 2003, 88.5 percent of non-teen mothers of live births received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, while only 75.3 percent of teen mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. The percent of teens who received no prenatal care (0.9) was higher than that for non-teens (0.7). ([Figure 16](#))

Of the births to teenage women in 2003, 84.5 percent were to whites and 12.6 percent were to blacks. For comparison, in 1994, 81.4 percent of births to teenage women were to whites and 16.2 percent were to blacks. ([Figure 17](#))

Pregnancy Outcomes (Cont.)

Teenage pregnancy rates for black mothers fell more steeply from 1994-2003 than rates for other population groups. The pregnancy rate for black females ages 10-19 decreased 42.5 percent from 75.6 pregnancies per 1,000 in 1994 to 43.5 in 2003. Black teens still have one of the highest rates. Although the rate for Hispanic teens (10-19) has declined since 1998, they have the highest rates overall for any population group. ([Table 20](#))

In 2003, 60.7 percent of the reported stillbirths occurred to mothers in the 20-29 age-group. ([Table 23](#))

Stillbirth rates in 2003 were highest for unmarried mothers: 7.5 per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths. ([Figure 19](#))

In 2003, the abortion ratio for Kansas residents was 156.6 abortions per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 11.5 percent from the 177.0 ratio in 1994. Ratios increased from 1991 to a high of 186.3 in 1996, then generally declined for the next seven years. ([Figure 20](#), [Table 24](#))

The abortion ratio for Kansas residents in 2003 varied substantially by age-group. The ratio per 1,000 live births was highest for women under 20 years of age. Since 1980, the abortion ratio declined for women in age groups under 20 and above 29. ([Figure 21](#))

In 2003, 6,163 abortions reported were performed for Kansas residents and 5,534 were performed for non-Kansans. Of the 6,163 resident abortions, 97 occurred out of state. ([Figure 23](#), [Table 24](#) and [Table 26](#))

Of Kansas residents having abortions, 54.0 percent were in the 15-24 age-group, 80.3 percent were unmarried and 75.6 percent were white. ([Figure 23](#), [Table 25](#))

In 2003, 60.6 percent of all reported abortions occurred prior to nine completed weeks of gestational age. Fourteen (13.2) percent of teenage women obtained an abortion after 16 weeks gestation, compared to 7.0 percent of women 20 and older. ([Table 26](#), [Figure 24](#))

Eighty-one percent (81.1) of all reported abortions in 2003 were to unmarried women. Among black women, 89.2 percent were unmarried, while 79.7 percent of white women and 75.3 percent of Hispanic women were unmarried. ([Table 27](#))

Eighty-five percent (84.6) of all reported abortions were performed prior to the 13th week of gestation. Suction curettage was the procedure used in 90.0 percent of these terminations. Only 8.1 percent of induced terminations were performed after 16 weeks gestation, and 50.0 percent of these used dilation and evacuation and 48.7 percent used Digoxin/Induction. ([Table 29](#))

The percentage of women who obtained an abortion early in pregnancy (less than 9 weeks of gestation) increased with age, and the percentage who obtained an abortion late in pregnancy (greater than 21 weeks of gestation) decreased with age for women up to 25-29 years of age and generally increased in older age-groups. ([Figure 25](#))